**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—Mr. President, on a point of order, Sir, yesterday in your absence while voting on cut motion number 49 under Public Health, through which I had pressed upon the Government the desirability of opening health centres in rural areas in preference to towns, there arose a difficulty. When I demanded a poll, the Hon'ble the Deputy President, adopted the usual method of asking the ayes and noes to stand up in their seats and I insisted upon having the neutrals also registered. Then the Hon'ble the Deputy President asked the neutrals to stand up. The result was that he found himself helpless because those gentlemen who did not decide which way to vote did not stand up. They did not belong either to ayes or noes and they did not stand up when neutrals were asked to show themselves out. I should like to know whether that is a permissible procedure.

**Mr. President.**—What did the Deputy President do then?

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—I insisted on having the names of neutrals registered. The Hon'ble Deputy President then asked them to stand up but they did not. I am sorry, Sir, that I have to make these observations on the Hon'ble the Deputy President. But, all the same, it is a point that arises for consideration and a ruling is necessary for future guidance.

**Mr. President.**—Any ruling given by the Chair either in the capacity of a President or a Deputy President is a ruling so that if any occasion arises again when the Chair has occasion to deal with such a situation, the Chair will makea ruling.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—I am afraid my point is not correctly understood. I raise a specific point of order whether it is open to the members to sit in their seats when the President calls upon them to stand up to see in which category they fall, Ayes, Noes or Neutrals.

**Mr. President.**—A point of order can be raised only when a situation arises.

## VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (Contd.)

### 25—Public Health—Rs. 1,18,093 (Contd.)

### Motion No. 51 (Contd.)

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—Mr. President, Sir, I find myself in a most unfortunate position. I have to reply to a debate which generated very great heat

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last evening but gave absolutely no light and hence my difficulty. It was stated by the Hon'ble member for Government that, unlike the mover, i. e. myself, who is charged for having digressed from the point, he would confine himself to the issue and if my notes which I copiously took are correct, I believe I am correct, my Hon'ble friend the Member for Government has digressed and digressed much more than myself. My digressions had a point while those of my friend had none. It has been stated here in this House with what object the Panchayat has been constituted. The thing to be studied under the Panchayat institutions, the way in which officers of Government deal with them, the way in which the Panchayat Presidents and Panchayatdars look upon these officers, the relationship between them, the sort of insubordination of these honorary gentlemen who do honorary work, all that has been told here by the Hon'ble Member for Pallipuram. But the point of my cut motion was that what has been taken away from the peasants ungenerously, ungraciously and without justification, viz. the sanitation and conservancy provisions of the Panchayat Regulation which were being exercised by the Panchayats from the very beginning may be given back to them. These items were taken away from them ungenerously, the moment the Public Health Department was constituted in 1109 or 1108. The point of my cut was that—give back unto us what has been unnecessarily taken away from us and what had been administered till then by us. Therefore, if the Hon'ble Member for Panchayats or other Hon'ble members who spoke had confined themselves to the issue we would have been told whether or not the Government would be pleased to give back what has been taken away from us. That has not been answered. The Hon'ble Government Member's answer on that point was in a way that this question has been considered by the last Panchayat Conference held on the 15th and 16th of Edavom 1112 at Wadakkanchery—my own place—which conference I had also the pleasure to attend. Because I was not a member of the Panchayat I had the pleasure to listen as a non-official. It has been stated that this point was considered by the Panchayat and the Panchayat was directed—I think the word used was 'ordered'—to give definite proposals and the charge against that conference was that definite proposals were not given, as if the non-official members who formed the conference were bound to give a scheme. What is the scheme that the Director wants? Why a scheme? The position is this: you have taken Rs. 10 from me, rather robbed me of that. I had been able to book you and say 'Give it back to me'. That is a

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demand legitimately made. What is the scheme necessary for that? What is taken from me should be given back to me. My Hon'ble friend told the House in a cool manner that the scheme was asked for and was not given. Subsequently, it is said the scheme has come. I do not know from where. It has not been sent by us. Is it from the brains of the paid officials, I do not know and it is said that that scheme is under the consideration of the Government. Therefore, it is attempted to be said now that the principle underlying the cut having been accepted, why do you, good boys, press this point at all? It was attempted, Sir, to bring pressure upon us—most improper to bring pressure upon the non-officials—not to press the cut to a division. That was the attempt made in your absence last evening. I know the facts and am out for battle—for battle loyal on these issues which I have studied and which you do not know. Therefore, I said "Let us have it tomorrow morning when our Diwan-President will be in the Chair, so that he might know it first hand." I therefore make an appeal to you, Sir, and ask the Diwan in you, whether or not the Government of Cochin are prepared to give back unto us what has been ungenerously taken from us. No answer. Even an unconvincing answer could have been given to this simple and straightforward question put in a straightforward way with all the stress that I could command. That could have been the answer of the officer of the Government drawing a high salary. Sir, we take exception to an officer drawing a high salary and doing this sort of work. I appeal to you, Sir, to mend these ways. I appeal to you, Sir, to give back unto us what has been taken from us, viz. Sanitation and conservancy of the Panchayat area to be supervised by other persons! Why are we there and why are the Panchayatdars there? What is their function? His Highness the late Abdicated Maharaja told us in clauses (a) to (k) of section 11 of Regulation V of 1089 that "Thou shalt perform such and such functions. I want you to study these things, so that you may hereafter associate yourselves in a greater measure with the administration of the Government, so that I may be helped by you. I will be only the ornamental head just like the King of England." What were we doing, Sir, for the last quarter of a century since the Panchayats were first constituted? How much money has been wasted? It has been stated, Sir, yesterday that Panchayatdars are a sort of irritating persons—persons who boss over the officers of Government. Look at the picture painted by the Hon'ble Member. Therefore, Sir, I may be excused for the very heated way in which I raise the

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proposition before you. My intimate association with the Panchayat of my own place for two years has given me the true picture of the Panchayats. I must pay credit to the Hon'ble Member for Pallipuram for having painted the picture of the Panchayats and the department and the relations between them as they exist. That glory goes to him. I will invite your pointed attention to the passage of the Hon'ble Member's speech, so that you may do us justice, so that you may give back unto us what is taken from us. I press this motion.

*Motion was put and agreed to.*

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*— Poll, Sir.

POLL.

| Ayes. | Noes. |
|---|---|
| 1. Mr. K. Ashtamoorthi Nambudiripad. | 1. Mr. K. Achyuta Menon. |
| 2. ,, M. V. Cheriyan. | 2. ,, A. L. Devassy. |
| 3. ,, A. Eachara Menon. | 3. ,, P. J. George. |
| 4. ,, P. Govinda Menon. | 4. ,, K. P. Kannan Nayar. |
| 5. ,, K. M. Ibrahim. | 5. ,, K. Narayana Menon. |
| 6. ,, E. Ikkanda Warriar. | 6. Rao Sahib I. N. Menon. |
| 7. ,, T. C. Iyyukutty. | 7. Mr. T. Narayana Menon. |
| 8. ,, T. K. Nayar. | 8. Dr. D. Raghavendra. Rao. |
| 9. ,, V. K. Krishnankutty. | 9. Rama Varmha Tampuran. |
| 10. ,, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan. | 10. Dr. E. S. R. Menon. |
| 11. ,, K. M. Kunhi Moideen. | 11. Miss. G. M. D'Souza. |
| 12. ,, K. Kunhirama Menon. | 12. Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar. |
| 13. ,, K. S. Manickam. | 13. Mr. Thomas Manjuran. |
| 14. ,, K. T. Mathew. | |
| 15. Dr. A. R. Menon. | |
| 16. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar. | |
| 17. ,, K. S. Panickar. | |
| 18. ,, A. V. Moothedan. | |
| 19. ,, C. S. Viswanatha Ayyar. | |
| 20. ,, R. Viswanathan Chettiar. | |

**Neutrals.**

1. Mr. George Parakkal.
2. ,, Shabdai S. Koder.
3. Mrs. Meenakshi N. Menon.

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